

DATE OF MEETING February 19, 2020

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SUBJECT **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MOBILE APP HOST COMMUNITY GRANT**

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report:

To advise Council of the Host Community role the City of Nanaimo will play in administering an \$11,000 grant from the UBC Community-University Engagement Support (CUES) Fund.

BACKGROUND

The Community-University Engagement Support (CUES) fund is designed to foster and support community-university engagements with diverse communities by offsetting costs for community partners who are collaborating with or seeking to collaborate with UBC partners on research, teaching or learning projects.

CUES is jointly sponsored by UBC Community Engagement, Vice-President External Relations, and the Vice-President Research & Innovation to deepen the relevance and public impact of UBC research and education, support the translation of research into action and strengthen university engagement and collaboration with local communities, particularly those who have been historically underserved, marginalized and/or excluded.

The City of Nanaimo along with, The City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Oak Bay Regional District, Strathcona Regional District, and the Tofino Regional District have partnered with a team from the University of British Columbia (UBC) to create the Canadian Hazards Emergency Response and Preparedness (CHERP) Vancouver Island Partnership project. This partnership is designed to further a common vision of encouraging and assisting residents in developing household emergency response plans. The funding will support the hosting of workshops, and the creation of a mobile app to further a common vision of encouraging residents in developing household emergency response plans for a more resilient community.

This will be achieved through the development of a mobile application (“app”) that residents can utilize in preparing emergency plans for their families and loved ones. The partnership has been successful in receiving funding through two (2) separate grants to support the development of the Mobile App.

DISCUSSION

A team of researchers from UBC have applied to two (2) different grant funds, the Community-University Engagement Support (CUES) and Marine Environmental Observation Prediction and Response (MEOPAR). They were successful in securing grants in the amount of \$11,000 and

\$15,000 respectively to host workshops with the City of Nanaimo and participating communities to develop a mobile Emergency Preparedness Planning App.

The City of Nanaimo has agreed to act as the principal community applicant and will administer the CUES funds in the amount of \$11,000 on behalf of UBC. The MEOPAR portion of the funding will be managed by UBC in the amount of \$15,000. There is no financial impact to the City of Nanaimo outside of processing the invoice for distribution of funds to participating communities.

The end result of the project is to develop a mobile app that will allow individual households to develop personalized emergency preparedness and response plans based on local risk and customized to the needs of the individuals living in their homes. With the completion of the Climate Resiliency Study for the City of Nanaimo, this app, in addition to supporting the Emergency Management Division, will support, educate and empower residents to plan for Climate Emergencies based on the risks recently completed in the Climate Resiliency Study. The development of the App is anticipated to be completed in spring.

CONCLUSION

The partnership and the development of the Mobile app will support citizens in preparing for emergencies and aid in creating a more resilient community. |

SUMMARY POINTS

- The City of Nanaimo, University of British Columbia and 6 other communities are partnering to support the development of a mobile app that will allow residents to develop Personal Emergency Plans
- This app in addition to supporting the Emergency Management Division, will support, educate and empower residents to plan for Climate.
- There is no financial impact to the City of Nanaimo
- The resulting mobile app will be made available to City of Nanaimo residents.

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